

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

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FOR EOS/OFA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TRIO, EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: OVERSEERS FOR
JAPANESE ANTARCTIC PELAGIC WHALING FLEET

REF: A. TOKYO 14120, B. TOKYO 13484, C. STATE 244905

1. REGFISHATT REFERRED BY FONOFF TO FISHERY AGENCY FOR GOJ REPLY
US REQUEST FOR PLACE OBSERVERS ABROAD JAPANESE ANTARCTIC WHALING
FLEET.

2. OYAMA (FISHERY AGENCY) REVIEWED IN SOME DETAIL HISTORY OF
INVITATION FROM COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WHALING COMPANIES-
THAT IN SOME CASES THE HEADS OF THE COMPANIES HAD NOT BEEN IN-
FORMED, NOR HAD THE GOVERNMENT BEEN CONSULTED. NEVERTHELESS, THE
FISHERY AGENCY AND THE COMPANIES FEEL THAT THE FLEETS ARE OPERATING
IN A FAIR MANNER, HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE, AND WOULD WELCOME IMPARTIAL
US SCIENTISTS ABOARD HAD THEY HAD A LONGER ADVANCE PERIOD TO
PREPARE FOR THEM. FISHERY AGENCY INDICATED THAT US SCIENTISTS WOULD
BE WELCOME NEXT YEAR ABROAD ALL BOATS AND SUGGESTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS
BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AT THE SAME TIME BUT NOT A PART OF THE
NEXT IWC ANNUAL MEETING.

3. AFTER RECANVASSING THE FLEET, FISHERY AGENCY COULD OFFER NO
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CHANGE IN ACCEPTANCE THIS YEAR ONLY ONE OBSERVER ABOARD THE TONAN

MARU. (FYI FONOFF PREVIOUSLY TOLD REGFISHATT THAT NISHIN MARU REFERRED TO EARLIER WAS IN ERROR - IT WAS ACTUALLY TONAN MARU.)

4. BASIC REASON GIVEN BY THE FISHERY AGENCY FOR ONLY ONE OBSERVER WAS THAT US REQUESTED RECEIVED ONLY ABOUT TEN DAYS BEFORE FIRST VESSEL SAILED AND WAS TOO LATE TO MAKE NECESSARY REARRANGEMENTS OF SPACE ABOARD SHIP, ETC. FOR EXAMPLE, CABINS, MESS SPACE, ETC. ALREADY ASSIGNED AND ANY CHANGE AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD POSE SERIOUS CREW PROBLEMS ABOARD SHIP WHICH THE COMPANIES WERE UNWILLING TO RISK.

5. AS POINTED OUT IN REF. A AND B, REAL CONCERN CENTERS AROUND QUESTION OF IMPARTIAL ATTITUDE OF US OBSERVERS. HOWEVER, FISHERY AGENCY WILL CONSIDER SOMEONE OTHER THAN A SCIENTIST IF SATISFIELD WITH BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND.

6. GOJ STILL MAINTAINS TH US INDIVIDUAL ABOARD CANNOT BE REFERRED TO AS OBSERVER BECAUSE OF CONFUSION AND POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH OFFICIAL STATUS OF SOVIET OBSERVERS ABOARD SAME SHIP AND UNDER EXISTING IWC INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM. IF NOT A SCIENTIST, THEN PERHAPS, SIMPLY A GUEST OF THE COMPANY, OR SOMEOTHER SUITABLE TITLE CAN BE FOUND.

7. NIPPON SUISAN HOPES US WILL ACCEPT THEIR INVITATION TO PLACE ABOARD SHIP AND HAVE TAKEN ON EXTRA WESTERN FOOD JUST IN CASE. HODGSON

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